



## **Charles Q. North, M.D., M.S.** **Chief Medical Officer (Acting)** **Indian Health Service**

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Charles Q. North, M.D., M.S., was selected in April 2007 as Acting Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. North began his career with the IHS in 1977 as a family physician and Director of Community Health Services in the Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps. He currently holds the rank of Captain.

As the Acting IHS CMO, Dr. North provides medical advice and guidance to the Office of the Director and staff on American Indian and Alaska Native health care policies and issues. He is the primary liaison and advocate for IHS field clinical programs and community-based health professionals. He provides national and international health care leadership and representation for the agency. In addition, he ensures that patient care and medical standards and concerns are represented in the decision-making process of the agency. Dr. North also establishes professional contacts with medical, educational, and physician organizations.

Before assuming the duties of the Acting IHS CMO, Dr. North served as Clinical Director of the Albuquerque Service Unit and Chief Clinical Consultant for Family Medicine since 1985. While a medical student at Fort Defiance Indian Hospital in 1974, he investigated the high rates of meningitis suffered on the Navajo Reservation, and he was the first family medicine resident in Minnesota to do his rural rotation at an IHS facility in Cass Lake. He has had academic affiliations with Johns Hopkins and Brown University School of Medicine. He has also been the Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at the University of New Mexico. In 1995, Dr. North developed a family medicine continuity residency pathway at the Albuquerque Indian Health Center, which is the only IHS site in the country where residents see Indian patients at an IHS facility through their 3 years of continuity experience. Dr. North received national recognition in 1983 when under his guidance, the Keams Canyon Hospital became the first 100% smoke free hospital in the U.S. Dr. North has worked on temporary duty assignments in numerous IHS Areas and with several Tribes.

Dr. North has served as Chair of the National Council of Clinical Directors and the National Council of Chief Clinical Consultants. Among many of his honors and awards are the Lifetime Achievement Award from the IHS National Council of Clinical Directors; IHS Directors Award; Physician Executive of the Year from the Surgeon General Physicians Professional Advisory Committee; HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service; Volunteer Faculty of the Year Award from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine; Superior Management Award; PHS Isolated Hardship Award; PHS Unit Commendation: PHS Citation; PHS Regular Corps Ribbon; PHS Commendation Medal; Health Resources and Services Administration's Administrators Award for Outstanding Group Performance; American Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors Commendation; and the Stanford Heart Disease Prevention Program Commendation.

A native of Seattle, Washington, Dr. North earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from the University of Washington, his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and his master of science degree in family practice and community health from the University of Minnesota, where he also completed his family medicine residency. He is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.